

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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## MEETING OF THE

# REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

**Monday, April 9, 2007  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**SCAG Offices  
818 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Conference Room Riverside B  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
213.236.1800**

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Deby Salcido at 213.236.1993 or [salcido@scag.ca.gov](mailto:salcido@scag.ca.gov)

Agendas and Minutes for the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force are also available at:  
[www.scag.ca.gov/committees/rcp.htm](http://www.scag.ca.gov/committees/rcp.htm)

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# REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

## AGENDA

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April 9, 2007

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Honorable  
Pam O'Connor, Chair

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or items not on the agenda, but within the purview of the Committee, must fill out and present a speaker's card to the Assistant prior to speaking. A speaker's card must be turned in before the meeting is called to order. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The chair may limit the total time for all comments to twenty (20) minutes.

3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Minutes of March 12, 2007 1

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

None

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 <u>Open Space and Habitat Chapter Attachment</u>	Jessica Kirchner SCAG Staff	3	30 Minutes
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Staff and the Consultant Team will lead a discussion on the development of the Open Space Chapter highlighting policy issues for consideration.

6.2 <u>Bond Implementation/RCP Workshop Attachment</u>	Bev Perry SCAG Staff	15	30 Minutes
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Staff will describe a workshop to be held  
On May 10.

# REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

## AGENDA

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7.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Honorable  
Pam O'Connor, Chair

8.0 STAFF REPORT

9.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force will be held at the SCAG offices on May 14, 2007, 10:00 a.m. – 12 Noon.

# ***Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force***

***Minutes for March 12, 2007***

The following minutes are a summary of actions taken by the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force.

The Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force held its meeting at the Southern California Association of Governments offices in Los Angeles. There was a videoconference at the SCAG Inland Office in Riverside. The meeting was called to order by Member, Toni Young, City of Port Hueneme.

**Committee Chair: Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica**

## **Members Present**

Garcia, Lee Ann  
McCallon, Larry  
Young, Toni

## **Representing**

Grand Terrace-Video  
Highland  
Port Hueneme

## **Members Absent**

Buckley, Tom  
Cook, Debbie  
Feinstein, Michael  
Fesmire, Melanie  
Nowatka, Paul  
O'Connor, Pam  
Pettis, Gregory

## **Representing**

Lake Elsinore  
Huntington Beach  
Ex-Officio  
Indio  
Torrance  
Santa Monica  
CVAG

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Toni Young, Member, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

### **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None offered.

### **3.0 REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

Item 6.2 will be heard before Item 6.1.

### **4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### **4.1 Minutes of February 12, 2007**

The minutes of February 12, 2007 were approved as submitted.

### **5.0 ACTION ITEMS**

None

# **Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force**

***Minutes for March 12, 2007***

## **6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **6.1 RCP Implementation – State Infrastructure Bonds**

Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, reported that SCAG would like to seek through the implementation of bond monies that were passed in November, the opportunity to implement some of those programs at the Regional level. SCAG is working with the other regions in California to put together a generic proposal that would fit what each of the regions are doing so everyone is on the same page in pushing a program in Sacramento.

Lecor Alpern, SCAG Staff, provided a summary of activity of the State Infrastructure Bonds and their tie in with blueprint plans.

### **6.2 RCP Implementation – Intergovernmental Review**

Jill Eggerman, SCAG Staff, provided an overview of SCAG's existing authorities under CEQA's Intergovernmental Review requirements. Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, informed the group that there is intent, as action strategy of selected chapters to develop mitigation standards that can be applied in varying circumstances.

Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, stated that pending comments from this group, a report will be generated to CEHD to discuss reorientation of the program post-adoption of the new RCP.

### **6.3 Outreach**

Jill Eggerman, SCAG Staff, provided the group with an update of the RCP Outreach Program. She provided a visual presentation that the members will most likely be presenting to others.

## **7.0 CHAIR'S REPORT**

None

## **8.0 STAFF REPORT**

Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, raised concern with the low turn out of members for these meetings. He will look into the possibility of recruiting additional members.

## **9.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

## **10.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2007, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon.

# MEMO

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**DATE:** April 9, 2007

**TO:** Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force

**FROM:** Jessica Kirchner, Associate Regional Planner, (213) 236-1983, [kirchner@scag.ca.gov](mailto:kirchner@scag.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Action Plan for the Regional Comprehensive Plan Open Space Chapter

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**SUMMARY:**

Previously, staff presented the Task Force with draft outcomes and performance measures for individual chapters of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). To date, the Task Force has forwarded all nine chapters to policy committee for public review and directed staff to perform technical refinements as necessary. Currently, an action plan is being developed for each chapter. These action plans will include detailed steps that will help move the region toward achieving the goals set out in the RCP.

The action plan developed for the Open Space and Habitat chapter is presented in draft format and will continue to be refined both by staff (in coordination with the open space consultant) and in response to input received during the public process.



# RCP Task Force



April 9, 2007

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## Overview

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- Update on Open Space Chapter
    - Work in progress
  - Preliminary Structure of RCP Open Space Chapter
    - Goals
    - Outcomes
    - Action Plans
  - Next Steps
    - Decision document
-



## RCP Open Space Chapter

- One of nine chapters
- Region is rich in open space, however . . .
  - Open space is not well distributed to meet natural or community needs
  - Development is progressing faster than open space protection
  - Developing a regional, systematic vision of open space prioritization and protection will fill a niche
  - Regional program will support governments and non-profits in on-going efforts



## Open Space Program – Some Highlights

- Focus on sustainability
- Potential tie-ins to CEQA and recent bond resources
- Three categories
  - Natural Lands (habitat)
    - Undeveloped vacant land with natural vegetation
    - Includes lands used for grazing, wildlife habitat
  - Community Open Space (parks)
    - Public open space in or serving communities
    - Includes park and recreation areas, community gardens, dedicated open space, urban forests, greenbelts, trail systems
  - Farmland
    - Prime farmland
    - Farmland of statewide importance
    - Unique farmland
    - Farmland of local importance



## Preliminary Structure of Open Space Chapter

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- Overview
    - Importance of regional Open Space planning
    - Unique benefits of different types of open space
    - Benefits for other RCP resource areas (e.g., land use & housing, water, air quality, energy)
  - Goals
    - Preserve, enhance, and mitigate growth impacts
  - Outcomes
    - Targets that define progress toward meeting outcomes
    - Short- and long-term
  - Action Plans
    - Implementation--achieve outcomes, meet goals
    - Roles and responsibilities for local governments, SCAG, stakeholders
    - Short- and long-term
- 

## Goals

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- Preserve, enhance, and mitigate growth impacts
    - Natural Lands (habitat)
    - Community Open Space (parks)
    - Farmland
  - Example: Enhance existing Community Open Spaces
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## Outcomes

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- Objectives that define progress toward RCP vision of sustainable region and better quality of life
- Short-term outcomes (2012)
  - Basis for evaluating State of Region
- Long-term outcomes (2035)
- Quantitative and qualitative
  - Focus on performance measures that can be monitored
- Example: 1 million new trees planted in urbanized areas of SCAG region by 2035


## Action Plans

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- Roles and responsibilities for local governments, SCAG, stakeholders
- Short-term actions (2012)
- Long-term actions (2035)
- Include SCAG policies adopted by Regional Council
- Example: Local governments incorporate urban reforestation policies in General Plan updates and consider impact fees for new development


## Preliminary Goals

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1. Protect regionally-significant Natural Lands
  2. Increase and Enhance Community Open Space
  3. Preserve productive Agricultural Lands
  4. Integrate open space conservation goals into planning process
  5. Seek more funding for conservation programs
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## Goal #1: Protect regionally-significant Natural Lands

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- Outcomes
    - Short Term
      - No further conversion of Natural lands to non-open space uses if environmental impacts are significant
      - More robust mitigation of growth's impacts on natural open space areas
      - Increased accessibility to underserved populations by creating opportunities for access through walking, biking and transit
    - Long Term
      - More acres of currently unprotected natural lands are permanently protected than converted to non-open space uses in the region
      - All major at-risk open space cores and critical wildlife linkages in the region are protected;
      - An interconnected regional open space system linking protected natural lands and community open space in all subregions
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## Goal #1: Protect regionally-significant Natural Lands

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### □ Action Plan

#### ■ Short Term/Long-Term

- *Local governments should reduce the rate at which natural lands are converted to non-open space uses and increase the rate and amount of natural lands preserved*
  - *Local governments should prevent the fragmentation and loss of natural lands necessary for ecological value*
  - *SCAG will amend its Intergovernmental Review program to improve its guidance to cities on how to avoid, reduce and mitigate any potentially significant impacts from proposed projects. SCAG will use its Open Space resources database to tailor comments and recommendations to local governments.*
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## Conservation Opportunity Areas

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### □ Regionally significant open spaces at risk

- Typically Natural Lands
  - Critical wildlife habitat linkages
  - Unprotected open space in the path of projected growth and/or transportation projects
  - Large tracts of unprotected open space adjacent to protected public lands
  - Emphasis on areas along county boundaries
- Action plan would protect, enhance, and better mitigate growth impacts based on significance
-

## Goal #2: Increase and Enhance Community Open Space

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### □ Outcomes

#### ■ Short Term

- *Community open space level of service of "C" or better in new 2% opportunity areas and 15 existing areas*
- *Increase accessibility to underserved populations by creating opportunities for access through walking, biking and transit*
- *Increase acres and miles of interconnected park and trail systems throughout the region*

#### ■ Long Term

- *All subregions have a "passing" or better COS LOS*
  - *Permanent funding mechanisms and a capital investment program for maintaining the regional open space system are in place*
  - *Protected natural lands and community open space form an interconnected regional open space system linking all subregions*
- 

## Goal #2: Increase and Enhance Community Open Space

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### □ Action Plan

#### ■ Short Term

- *Local governments should include Community Open Space in major redevelopment or Specific Plan areas*
- *SCAG should work with transit providers to improve the amount of community open space accessible by transit trips of one hour or less*

#### ■ Long Term

- *Local governments and resource organizations increase acres and miles of interconnected park and trail systems throughout the region*
-

### Goal #3: Preserve productive Agricultural Lands

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#### □ Outcomes

##### ■ Short Term

□ *Increase the amount of prime farmlands enrolled in conservation programs*

##### ■ Long Term

□ *All prime farmlands enrolled in conservation programs are permanently protected from urban encroachment*

□ *Economic viability of agricultural lands to support growth*

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### Goal #3: Preserve productive Agricultural Lands

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#### □ Action Plan

##### ■ Short Term

□ *SCAG will work with local governments and other stakeholders to enroll more prime farmlands in conservation programs*

##### ■ Long Term

□ *SCAG will work with stakeholders to refine the Williamson Act to address existing concerns*

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## Goal #4: Integrate open space conservation goals into planning process

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### □ Outcomes

#### ■ Short Term

- *Regional growth forecasts for the 2012 RTP that better integrate the RCP's open space goals and outcomes.*
- *Improved monitoring of the region's progress in meeting the goals of the Regional Open Space Program (State of the Region).*

#### ■ Long Term

- *Regional growth forecasts for future RTPs fully integrate the RCP's open space goals and outcomes.*
- 

## Goal #4: Integrate open space conservation goals into planning process

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### □ Action Plan

#### ■ Short Term

- *SCAG will work with local governments to develop community open space strategies for its 2% Opportunity Area demonstration projects.*
- *SCAG will expand consideration of non-motorized and intermodal transportation systems to identify interlinked trails, bikeways, etc. providing access to open space areas*
- *SCAG will track open space conservation trends annually through its open space database.*

#### ■ Long Term

- *SCAG will emphasize the need for transportation projects to mitigate cumulative growth-related impacts, above and beyond mitigation of direct impacts.*
  - *SCAG will work with CTCs and Caltrans to establish guidelines for determining consistency with the Regional Open Space Program and mitigating growth-related as well as direct impacts.*
  - *SCAG will set up a clearinghouse of important GIS data used for open space planning.*
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## Goal #5: Seek more funding for conservation programs

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### □ Outcomes

#### ■ Short Term

- Substantial funding from Prop 84 bond

#### ■ Long Term

- More funding for conservation efforts that don't jeopardize existing funding for other SCAG priorities

## Goal #5: Seek more funding for conservation programs

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### □ Action Plan

#### ■ Short Term

- SCAG will focus lobbying efforts toward securing more Prop 84 funds.
- SCAG will support legislation and authorize new bonds to fund conservation.
- SCAG will create a database of funding opportunities.


#### ■ Long Term

- SCAG will develop an open space funding program to demonstrate to state/federal agencies its ability to serve a regional entity to distribute state/federal funds for open space conservation.
- SCAG will help create new sources of funding for open space conservation.
- SCAG will establish decision-making tools for identifying and prioritizing open space conservation projects, such as those by the San Diego Association of Governments in distributing funding through the Transnet Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP).



## Next Steps

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- Further development of draft goals, outcomes, action plans
  - Decision document outlining
    - Policy options
    - Implications for local governments, SCAG, stakeholders
    - June 2007
  - Release Draft RCP Summer 2007
  - RCP adoption in concert with RTP & Program EIR
- 



## Questions, Discussion



## **BOND IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP**

New Date: **Thursday, May 3**

Timeframe: **9am – 2 pm**

Place: Biltmore Hotel (as part of the General Assembly)

### **Outcomes from the Workshop**

- Information about the various bonds & their implications, especially for regions
  - the concept in the bonds is that regional plans should create the framework for giving out the money
  - regions won't handle the money, just prioritize the applications according to regional plans,
- State agency money that will have a regional look (HCD, Parks, CalTrans, etc.)
- What's happening with implementing legislation for the bonds?
- RCP tie-in

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

9:00	Registration
9:30	Welcome: Yvonne Burke & RCP task force member
9:45	Overview: RCP task force member
10-11:30	Bonds 101 – Panel of Agency Representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HCD</li><li>• Parks Dept.</li><li>• Dept. of Water Resources</li><li>• CalTrans</li></ul> <p>(Each to do 5-10 minutes on the pots of money they control and the timelines &amp; procedures they've set up to disperse the money. After this, then each will give general thoughts on the bonds and how things will move forward. We will ask them to mention how regional planning efforts might fit into their plans.)</p>
11:30-11:45	Break
11:45-12:30	Jacob Lieb: RCP Presentation (including the regional perspective)
12:30-2	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brian Kelly will be the speaker and will talk on legislation, etc. (30 minutes)</li><li>• Regional Champion Awards</li></ul>
2-2:45	Regional Council meeting
2:45-3:30	General Assembly
3:30	Remarks from State legislators
4:00	Reception